

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Archives is the official repository for our state's legal and historical records and contains the rich and diverse heritage of its people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Archives was established as a separate function of government in 1957 with the passage of the Archives and Records Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, archival institutions are vital to collecting, organizing, preserving, and making available the public records that document the history of our state and the essential evidence of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the archives collectively contain over 150 years of unique materials including records from all Governors since 1853, the original Constitutional laws of the Legislature, decisions of the Supreme Court, territorial maps, and photographic images; and

**WHEREAS**, archivists across Washington State are dedicated to preserving and maintaining records in the public trust, and making those records available for study and appreciation, both in local repositories throughout the state and via the Internet; and

**WHEREAS**, through these archives, future generations of Washington State citizens can study the past, learn from the accomplishments of their predecessors, trace their ancestors, confirm property rights, and maintain laws, while celebrating the history of our state; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 2008 as

### *Archives Month*

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to explore the exhibits, displays, and treasures in local archival repositories across the state.

Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008

*Chris Gregoire*

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

